

Application No. 10/624,149
Amendment Dated: May 2, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 3, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 have been canceled. Claims 3 and 13-31 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 32-36 have been added. No new matter is added. Thus, claims 12 and 32-36 are under consideration.

In the communication mailed March 3, 2006, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, and 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Osterrider et al. and by Elbers et al. While Applicants respectfully disagree, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, and 4-11 to advance prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in later filed continuations or divisional applications.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 12 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have rewritten claim 12. Applicants have also added claims 32-36, which depend from claim 12. Applicants respectfully request that related claims 32-36 be allowed as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and such favorable action at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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